

Origin, Growth and Development of the Tobacco Industry of Eastern North Carolina.

For ages past it has been said, and with a great deal of accuracy, that necessity is the mother of invention, and as time goes on and our speculative and creative genius becomes thoroughly developed, so will necessity ply its trade in proportion to the needs which the spirit of the times require. As our requirements increase, so will our inventive genius provide means for meeting those requirements. The roving, restless and discontented spirit of man is ever alert, watching for changes that will better his condition and make him happier, wiser and better, and out of this dissatisfied and restless spirit of our nature springs the changes and brings about the revolutions which mark the ages with the glorious and brilliant achievements in the evolution of our civilization; takes us from the plain paths that others have trod and sends us in quest of men and undiscovered matter. It is this spirit in men that produces the changes in every sphere of life, agricultural, mechanical, scientific and philosophical. It was this spirit which a few years ago got hold of the cotton farmers of the Eastern part of the State and caused them to get together and discuss the practicability of introducing tobacco culture in the Eastern counties.

The result was that in several localities in Pitt, Edgecombe and Wilson counties, small experimental crops of tobacco was planted. The result of the first year's experience was not altogether successful. While some paid expenses, others did not, and only a very few made money out of the first venture. While not altogether successful from an immediate financial point of view, yet it served the purpose of awakening the farmers to an interest in the